

VENEZUELA - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

I. Venezuelan government making all-out effort through OAS to force the isolation, condemnation, and downfall of Dominican Dictator Trujillo following effective establishment Dominican involvement in 24 June assassination attempt on President Betancourt.

A. Venezuela requesting OAS council to call emergency meeting of American Foreign Ministers not later than 15 July. Council has deferred decision until 8 July.

1. Venezuela wants Foreign Ministers to invoke sanctions

against the Dominican regime under 1947 Rio Mutual Defense Pact.

2. Pro-Castro Venezuelan Foreign Minister states his government also wants US and Latin American governments which have not done so to break diplomatic relations with Trujillo.

a. He has requested US to lead way in this action and to offer act as host to foreign ministers' meeting.

b. Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador have already broken relations with Ciudad Trujillo.

II. Venezuela likely to retaliate against Trujillo if OAS does not act promptly and effectively against him.

A. Venezuelan Foreign Minister claims Venezuelan people and military would support attack on Dominican Republic.

1. Popular hatred of Trujillo in Venezuela has intensified since assassination attempt.

2. Betancourt reportedly believes another Dominican attempt will be made on his life momentarily and feels he must have showdown with Trujillo without further delay.

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3. Military have favored direct action ever since the Dominican-backed uprising of dissident armed forces elements in Venezuela on 20-21 April.
4. Venezuela may give large-scale support to Dominican exile groups in Venezuela to launch an invasion of the Dominican Republic.

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III. Stability of Dominican dictatorship threatened by growing internal opposition and hemispheric isolation.

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- B. OAS condemnation of Trujillo accompanied by sanctions would further weaken his position.
 1. OAS Peace Committee condemned Trujillo in early June for flagrant violations of human rights.
 - a. Internal Dominican opposition likely to rise against Trujillo if well-armed invasion effort is launched by exiles.

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